

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

If the magnitude of the signal gain and the attenuation is known for the guided optical signals in the optical waveguides L, WE1, WS1, . . . and the breaks U1, U2, U3, . . . , it is possible to identify, using an intensity measurement on following modules in the chain, how many modules are not inserted. As illustrated in the embodiment of FIG. 3, which is similar to the embodiment of FIG. 2, [[If, in addition,]] and includes an attenuating element (A) with a defined attenuation which is inserted in the breaks U2 which are not occupied by modules M1,M2,M3, such that available slots P can be more reliably determined on the basis of the intensity measurement.